



LOS ANGELES  
LGBT  
CENTER

# 2016 ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

FLIP THE PAGE FOR  
MORE DETAILED  
DESCRIPTIONS ON  
EACH PROPOSITION

## STATEWIDE PROPS

**52 YES**

Restricts diverting funds away from Medi-Cal

A yes vote makes it harder for the legislature to divert funds that are otherwise supposed to be spent on the Medi-Cal program

**55 YES**

Extends income tax rates for wealthiest Californians

A yes vote adds 12 years to the life of income tax rates imposed by the 2012 Proposition 30

**56 YES**

Raises tobacco tax by \$2 a pack

A yes vote raises taxes on tobacco and electronic cigarette products containing nicotine. Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death for the LGBT community.

**57 YES**

Creates new parole rules for nonviolent felons

A yes vote would allow prisoners serving time for a nonviolent crime to become eligible for early release based on their effort to earn credits for education and good behavior while incarcerated

**59 YES**

Instructs California officials to work for Citizens United repeal

A yes vote instructs California officials to work toward a repeal of the Citizens United campaign finance ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court

**60 NO**

Over-regulates adult film industry

Current state law already protects adult film industry performers

**61 NO**

Imposes price limits on prescription drugs for small number of state agencies

Prop 61 is misleading and may end up costing the Center's clients more money for their prescription drugs

**62 YES**

Repeals the death penalty

A yes vote ends the death penalty in California, converting death row sentences to life without parole

**63 YES**

Institutes a number of gun controls

A yes vote bans the sale and possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines. It would also impose background checks for purchasing ammunition, new felony charges for gun thefts and rules for keeping guns away from felons.

**64 YES**

Legalizes adult use of marijuana

A yes vote legalizes marijuana and hemp. Sales would be limited to those who are 21 and older.

**66 NO**

Reduces the rights of individuals on death row

A no vote maintains the current criminal appeals process for inmates on death row

## CITY MEASURE

**HHH YES**

Homelessness reduction and prevention, housing, and facilities bond

A yes vote raises funds to help reduce homelessness in Los Angeles



LOS  
ANGELES  
LGBT  
CENTER

# 2016 ELECTION VOTER GUIDE\*

If any election was proof that California's "make the law by ballot measure" system is broken, it's this one. So many measures are on the ballot, and of such complexity, that few voters will have the opportunity to fully educate themselves on all the issues. In such an environment, the victor is often the side with the most money to spend on campaign ads. That's not the way to keep our state and our democracy strong. Moreover, such complicated proposals shouldn't be able to skirt the normal legislative process, during which they'd be subject to open hearings and public scrutiny.

Put simply, the Los Angeles LGBT Center believes that passing legislation is the role of elected officials, not a simple majority of voters. It's also way too easy for voters to amend the state constitution via ballot measure, as they did when Proposition 8 was passed to prohibit same-sex couples from marrying. Fundamental rights, in particular, should never be decided by a popular vote.

Yet, this is the system we have. In an effort to help our community sift through the most important measures in this election, the Center's Policy team has studied and looked at each proposition. What follows are our recommendations with regard to those propositions upon which we have chosen to take a position.

## STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

### **52 YES** Restricts diverting funds away from Medi-Cal

A yes vote makes it harder for the legislature to divert funds that are otherwise supposed to be spent on Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program serving low-income individuals, including families, seniors, persons with disabilities, children in foster care, and pregnant women.

### **55 YES** Extends income tax rates for wealthiest Californians

A yes vote adds 12 years to the life of income tax rates imposed by the 2012 Proposition 30. Those rates, a 1% to 3% surtax on incomes above \$250,000 a year, would continue through 2030. The money would be spent on California schools and government healthcare programs. Within a year of winning overwhelming support by voters, Proposition 30 stabilized school funding, allowing school districts to avert thousands of teacher layoffs and helped the legislature balance its budget for the first time in years without slashing social programs.

### **56 YES** Raises tobacco tax by \$2 a pack

A yes vote raises taxes on tobacco and electronic cigarette products containing nicotine. The money would be used on healthcare and tobacco-control programs. Raising the price of tobacco has consistently been shown to reduce smoking.

### **57 YES** Creates new parole rules for nonviolent felons

A yes vote would allow prisoners serving time for a nonviolent crime to become eligible for early release based on their effort to earn credits for education and good behavior while incarcerated. The initiative also would eliminate the existing law that can send a juvenile offender immediately to an adult court hearing.

### **59 YES** Instructs California officials to work for Citizens United repeal

A yes vote instructs California officials to work toward a repeal of the Citizens United campaign finance ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. That ruling opened the door to unlimited spending on federal campaigns by corporations and unions, and could be overturned by an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The measure is largely a way for California voters to express their opinion on money in politics.

### **60 NO** Over-regulates adult film industry

Current state law already protects porn actors. We do not support the penalties that could be imposed on movie producers for violations of this new law. This law will only serve to further drive the porn industry underground, threatening the health and safety of the actors.

### **61 NO** Imposes price limits on prescription drugs for small number of state agencies

While we all agree the cost of prescription drugs are too high and lowering those costs is a good thing, nobody knows if this proposition will actually accomplish that. Experts disagree. It is possible that should this proposition pass, Center clients may end up paying more and state programs like the AIDS Drug Assistance Program could actually lose funding. The reality is, we do not know the true ramifications of this proposal.

### **62 YES** Repeals the death penalty

A yes vote ends the death penalty in California with death row sentences converted to life without parole. The measure would send more money earned for prison work to victim resolution efforts.

### **63 YES** Institutes a number of gun controls

A yes vote bans the sale and possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines. It would also impose background checks for purchasing ammunition, new felony charges for gun thefts and rules for keeping guns away from felons.

### **64 YES** Legalizes adult use of marijuana

A yes vote legalizes marijuana and hemp. Sales would be limited to those 21 and older. State taxes would be collected from buyers, and local taxes would be allowed. Most of the tax revenues would go toward law enforcement and marijuana education programs. In addition, individuals convicted of marijuana crimes could ask to have their sentences reduced, or if they are no longer incarcerated, could ask the courts to have their criminal records changed.

### **66 NO** Reduces the rights of individuals on death row

A no vote continues to protect individuals on death row and allow for the current appeals process. We believe a no vote on Prop 66 is consistent with our support of Prop 62. We do not support the death penalty or reducing the rights of individuals currently on death row.

## CITY MEASURE

### **HHH YES** Homelessness reduction and prevention, housing, and facilities bond

The proposal asks voters to approve a \$1.2-billion general obligation bond, basically a type of loan, to finance the construction of supportive and affordable housing for homeless people in the city of Los Angeles. Supportive housing refers to a type of housing that also includes on-site services, such as case managers and physical and mental health care.

\* Ballot proposition descriptions provided by *Los Angeles Times* and Center staff